

1:0 THREAT POLICY

2:0 POLICY STATEMENT

2:1 Events on school campuses have placed a spotlight on the safety and security of schools. Raising awareness about both the problem of school violence and ways to prevent it are central components of this policy. Being aware that potential acts of violence might occur at any time and at any school is the first step that school administration must take in efforts to make their schools safe. There is no guarantee that being aware that problems might occur is enough to prevent tragedies from happening. But awareness based on information enables the school system to do all they can to prevent problems and enhance safety and security of their students and staff.

3:0 SIGNS OF POTENTIAL VIOLENCE

3:1 Administrators, teachers, and staff should continue to direct their efforts to detect signs of potential violent behavior in students. Disrespect for others and for oneself, extreme bullying, and changes in behavior are all possible indications of potential violence. While identifying those students most likely to engage in violent acts is essential, it is just the first step.

4:0 DEFINITION OF A THREAT

4:1 Expression of intent to inflict harm, aggressive or hostile words or actions intended to harm others or oneself physically or emotionally and/or destroy property.

5:0 ASSESSMENT OF A THREAT

5:1 Students and staff should be actively encouraged to notify a building administrator whenever they hear of a person who:

- has a weapon at school;
- is planning to bring one to school; or
- is planning a violent act.

While most rumors will prove false, schools must follow up on rumors or overheard conversations. It should be stressed to students that it is their duty to report what they hear regarding any threat of violence. All reports must be taken seriously. Until investigated, comments should be taken at face value. To ensure that rumors and threatening comments are dealt with properly, trained personnel will follow up on student hearsay reports.

6:0 PROCEDURES

6:1 When an alleged violation of this definition comes to the attention of school personnel, the building principal or in his/her absence, the assistant principal or in the event of his/her absence, central administration, shall report to the members of the “crisis intervention team.” The team may consist of any combination of a number of members teachers, guidance staff, school social workers, central office administration, special needs teacher, school psychologist, etc.) to assess the validity of the violation.

When a person is suspected of posing a threat toward school staff and students, the school office and local law enforcement shall be notified.

The “crisis intervention team” will consider all facts and circumstances and render a finding. Said finding may include a recommendation as to sanctions, and/or a form of intervention (conflict resolution contract, mediation, peer mediation, parent conference).

7:0 SANCTIONS

7:1 Sanctions will remain consistent with Administrative Regulation JIC - STUDENT CONDUCT AND BEHAVIOR, **Group A, Group B, Group C; M.G.L. Chapter 71, Section 37H**, and may include:

- immediate suspension and/or exclusion
- notification to Police Department (grades 6-12)
- immediate suspension with discretionary recommendation to the Superintendent for exclusion hearing
- outside evaluation at a court clinic or by a psychiatrist or psychologist trained in assessing crises situations
- no trespass order

7:2 Any student who has had sanctions imposed pursuant to these provisions shall have the right to appeal . Said appeal shall be to the Superintendent and/or the School Committee depending upon sanction imposed.

7:3 When a violation of this policy involves a special education student and the violation is determined to be a manifestation of a disability, protocol for Chapter 766 and IDEA will be followed.

8:0 NOTIFICATION

8:1 Promulgated to the parents and the media as determined by the Superintendent and his/her designee.
The staff as determined by the building principal on a need to know basis unless the threat endangers the entire school. All staff should be notified together with the Superintendent and his/her designee.
To person or persons being threatened (parents of person if a student).

Adopted: September 30, 1998

Revised: December 9, 1998

INTRUDERS
(THREATENING BEHAVIOR)

Intruders are unauthorized visitors on your campus who are trespassing or loitering on school property and will not comply with a reasonable request to vacate the premises when asked to do so.

A. PREVENTIVE ACTION

1. Post permanent signs affixed at all parking area entrances directing visitors to the office.
2. Post signs at campus building entrances instructing visitors to obtain a visitor ID badge at the front office.
3. Ask staff and faculty to question unauthorized persons (and students without passes) on campus.
4. Determine whether the person is a legitimate visitor or a threat to campus safety.
5. Escort legitimate visitors to the office to sign in and obtain a badge.

B. PROCEDURES FOR DEALING WITH INTRUDERS

1. If a person on a campus is suspected of posing a threat, notify the office immediately. Have faculty or staff attempt to VOLUNTARILY escort the person to the front office. Notify, or have a designee immediately notify, campus school resource officer. If no school resource officer is available and hostile confrontation appears imminent, call 911.
2. If principal or his/her designee determines intruder is a threat, give established code to alert staff to intruder's location within the building.
3. Immediately secure all classrooms and buildings (barring intruder's location) to deny intruder access. Ask intruder to leave school premises; warn that law enforcement personnel are en route.
4. If intruder refuses to leave, instruct teachers in direct contact with the intruder not to engage in a violent confrontation. They should take every precaution to ensure their safety and the safety of their students.
5. The principal or his/her designee should maintain direct observation of the intruder to monitor developments until arrival of law enforcement.
6. Request law enforcement arrest intruder if he/she refuses to leave.
7. Once the intruder incident has been resolved, sound the "all clear" signal.

WEAPONS ON CAMPUS

Guidelines:

1. Obtain as much information as possible about potential weapons on school property. Find out who has the weapon, what kind of weapon, the location of the weapon (i.e., bookbag, locker, etc.) **Do not** announce that a weapon is in the classroom.
2. Notify the school administrators immediately. This may be accomplished by sending a sealed note to the office with a trusted student, or some other predetermined signal.
Administrators should notify the police department at once.
3. If the incident is after school hours (i.e., athletic event, dance, etc.) contact the police department immediately.
4. **Do not** approach/confront a person suspected of having a weapon in a classroom or crowded area. Make every effort to keep your eyes on the person suspected of having a weapon until help arrives so that you may point him/her out to the police.
5. It is best to have the police officer at the school prior to having the person suspected of carrying the weapon confronted. Have the police officer confront the person and conduct the search of the person suspected of possessing a weapon. Let the police officer take custody of any weapons. Ask the police officer to photograph the weapon and send a copy of the photo to the Safe Schools Facilitator, along with a copy of the police report.
6. Treat all firearms as if they were loaded. If a firearm is found, do not pick it up, but call the police unless you are trained to handle firearms.
7. To reduce the risk of injury and promote personal safety, avoid handling weapons. Remember, some weapons can be disguised in such things as pens, belt buckles, or even jewelry.
8. Begin the Suspension/Expulsion process and complete the police report.